

FROM

STATE SENATOR

SAM AANESTAD

4TH SENATE DISTRICT

Northern California



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Hospice Care for Rural Communities

Senator Sam Aanestad (R-Grass Valley) recently authored health related legislation that will mean greater health care access for families in rural California. The Aanestad legislation created skilled nursing facilities, such as hospice care, with room enough for 12 patients in rural areas. Previous law had limited bed space to just six patients.

Specialized Care

These special types of skilled nursing facilities and hospice care facilities often serve elderly and disabled patients. In Northern California, these facilities not only serve the community they are located in, but are often the only option for residents in surrounding counties. Since these facilities are already located in rural areas, there is room to expand to a 12-bed limit.

A Rural Challenge

Skilled nursing facilities, like hospice care, in more densely populated, or urban areas, do not suffer from the same types of problems that confront facilities in rural areas. Cities with larger populations offer choices from a wide range of hospital facilities that rural areas cannot offer.

New Legislation

SB 666 will allow skilled nursing facilities in counties with less than 500,000 residents to have up to a 12-bed limit.

Families Benefit

The Aanestad legislation makes it easier for families to keep loved ones within a close distance, yet still ensure they get the skilled nursing care they need

Patient Safeguards

The Aanestad legislation does not change existing requirements for medical

supervision, 24-hour skilled nursing care and requires these facilities to maintain a "home like" environment.

More Opportunity

The legislation is also expected to spur construction for new facilities in all rural areas. One such construction effort is already underway in Grass Valley.

"There is an increasing demand in rural Northern California for quality skilled nursing facilities, and expanding the bed limit from six to 12 makes it easier for these facilities to open and serve our rural areas."

Senator Sam Aanestad

For more information, visit: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/4>
Or call Senator Aanestad's Office at: **916-651-4004**